

LESSON 3

MEF BATTLESPACE MANAGEMENT

Junior commanders fighting the battles and engagements at hand are concerned with the coming hours, even minutes, and the immediate field of battle. But, regardless of the spheres of influence and interest, it is essential to have some vision of the final result we want and how we intend to shape the action in time and space to achieve it.

-- FMFM 1
Warfighting

The battlefield is the epitome of war. All else in war, when war is perfectly conducted, exists but to serve the forces of the battlefield and to assure success on the field.

-- Brigadier General S. L. A. Marshall
Men Against Fire

Introduction

Purpose

This lesson

- Establishes a framework for the MEF battlespace
- Reinforces the single battle concept
- Describes operations that take place throughout the MEF battlespace

Why Study MEF Battlespace Management?

Defining battlespace requires the use of techniques and tools within a conceptual framework. Today's effective commander and supporting staff must be familiar with the techniques and tools used to define the battlespace to optimize the forces and the doctrine at their disposal.

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Introduction, Continued

**Relationship
to Other
Instruction**

This lesson

- Explores the ways and means of defining the MEF battlespace
- Leads to understanding the concept of the MEF battlefield, how to define and describe it, and how it applies to joint operations; all of which are essential to planning MEF operations, as will be seen in the *Marine Corps Planning Process* (8805) course.

Study Time

This lesson, including the issues for consideration, will require about 3 hours of study.

Educational Objectives

Battlespace	Understand the concept of the MEF's battlespace in joint operations. [JPME 2(a)]
Control Measures	Understand the control measures used to define the MEF battlespace. [JPME 2(d)]
Deep Operations	Comprehend the impact of deep operations on close and rear battle areas. [JPME 2(d)]
JPME Areas/ Objectives/Hours (accounting data)	2/a/.5 2/d/1

Discussion

Definition

The term **battlespace**

- Refers to **where** MEF operations are planned and conducted
- Includes all aspects of air, surface, subsurface, land, space, and electromagnetic spectrum that encompass the area of influence and area of interest

The MEF commander and his staff must be aware of what is going on within the battlespace and manage assets effectively to ensure a coordinated effort to complete the mission. Battlespace management is a conceptual framework that influences MEF warfighting.

Modern Battlespace

Modern **battlespace** is a multidimensional area that exceeds the traditional battlefield in width or depth with height and time (operational tempo). This modern battlespace retains its traditional composition, which consists of the following as defined in Joint Pub 3-0, *Doctrine for Joint Operations*:

- **Area of operations** - A portion of an area of war necessary for military operations and for the administration of such operations.
- **Area of influence** - A geographical area where a commander is directly capable of influencing operations by fire, air, or maneuver systems normally under his C².
- **Area of interest** - An area of concern to the commander, including the area of influence, areas adjacent thereto, and extending into enemy territory to the objectives of current or planned operations. This area also includes areas occupied by enemy forces who could jeopardize the accomplishment of the mission. The size of the area of interest depends on the situation and is based solely on the commander's concern.
- **Joint operations area** - An area of land, sea, and airspace, defined by the Commander in Chief, in which a Joint Force Commander (JFC) conducts military operations to accomplish a specific mission.

The operational commander must remain involved and informed of the events and circumstances in all these areas.

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Discussion, Continued

Why Define the Battlespace?

Battlespace is defined to

- Improve unit coordination/action
 - Deconflict battlespace use
 - Prevent fratricide
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Methods of Defining Battlespace

Three primary measures of identifying battlespace are

- Maneuver control
- Fire support
- Air control

All of which have two features

- Permissive for someone
 - Restrictive to someone else
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Battlespace Boundaries

Joint Pub 3-0, *Doctrine for Joint Operations* defines battlespace boundaries as...*lines that delineate surface areas for the purpose of facilitating coordination and deconfliction of operations between adjacent units, formations, or areas.*

MEF Commander and the Battlespace

To achieve mission objectives, the MEF commander seeks to influence the battlespace in three primary operations:

- Shaping
 - Sustaining
 - Decisive
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Discussion, Continued

MEF Battlespace Operations

MEF battlespace operations focus on the threat and determine the action to be taken. They include the following:

- Shaping operations
- Limit freedom of action
- Destroy/dislocate selected enemy capabilities
- Alter tempo in favor of the U.S.
- Set favorable conditions for decisive action
- Sustaining operations
- Maintain freedom of action
- Generate tempo
- Ensure continuity and flow of the single battle
- Decisive operations
- A series of actions that achieve a significant advantage over the enemy, ideally occurring when and where the commander chooses.

Commander's Area of Concern

The commander's immediate area of concern is the **area of operations**. This is the traditional battle area that consists of

- Deep battle operations
- Close battle operations
- Rear battle operations

These three operations combine to form the MEF commander's single battle. Each has its own unique source and operational requirements.

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Discussion, Continued

Historical View Though separated into specific components of the single battle, a geographically linear view of the deep, close, and rear battle operations is **not** encouraged. Circumstances have allowed such a view during battles in

- Okinawa
- Southwest Asia

but prohibits it in

- Haiti
- Somalia
- Panama
- Grenada

In planning and executing the single battle concept, a **nonlinear** view on the deep, close, and rear battles is important.

Deep Operations

Deep operations are military actions conducted against enemy capabilities that pose a potential threat to friendly forces. These military actions are designed to isolate, shape, and dominate the battlespace and to influence future operations. Deep operations are conducted primarily through the employment of fires. They seek to

- Open the window of opportunity for decisive maneuver
- Restrict the enemy's freedom of action
- Disrupt the coherence and tempo of operations
- Neutralize firepower
- Disrupt C²
- Interdict supplies
- Isolate or destroy main forces
- Break morale

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Discussion, Continued

Examples of Deep Operations

Examples of deep operations include

- Nathan Bedford Forest's activities against General Sherman's rear, during the Atlanta campaign, were deep operations in support of General Johnston's defensive operations.
- Operation *Desert Shield's* air operations against Iraq were deep operations in support of General Shwartzkopf's coalition defense of Kuwait.

More than a hundred years separated these two operations, but both were conceived and executed for the same purpose--to interdict the lines of communication, support an offensive force, and degrade the enemy's ability to continue offensive action--while placing the defense in a position where it could transition to the offense. Both operations were trying to shape the circumstance of the "next" tactical engagement; one failed and one was successful.

Close Operations

Close operations are military actions conducted to project power decisively against enemy forces that pose an immediate or near-term threat to the success of current battles and engagements. These military actions are conducted by committed forces and their readily available tactical reserves, using maneuver and combined arms. These operations require

- Speed and mobility to enable the rapid concentration of overwhelming combat power at the critical time.
- Application of that combat power at the critical place.
- Ruthless exploitation of success gained. The opportunity to achieve a decision will be lost if a commander fails to exploit success.

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Discussion, Continued

Rear Operations

Rear operations are those actions necessary to sustain deep and close operations. They ensure the freedom of action of the force and the ability to conduct continuous operations. Tasks associated with rear operations are

- Combat Service Support (CSS)
- Terrain management
- Security

As these activities are conducted throughout the area of operations, they should not be considered solely by geographic location. The commander will conduct rear operations throughout the battlespace to support the conduct of the single battle.

Linear and Nonlinear Battlespace

The battlespace is described in linear and nonlinear terms. Examples of each are listed below:

- It may be a traditionally geographically linear battlespace arrayed in a line, such as in most World War II battles and Operation *Desert Storm*.
 - It may be more indefinite and fluid or nonlinear, such as in Haiti, Somalia, Panama, and Grenada.
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Shaping the Battlespace

The following factors play a part in shaping the battlespace:

- Geography
 - Enemy's position
 - Available MEF assets
 - Logistical concerns
 - Supporting forces
 - Tempo of operations
 - Mission
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Discussion, Continued

Nonlinear Operations Example

An example of nonlinear operations can be found in Somalia where deep operations to feed outlying towns was coincident with a close battle area around each of these towns for those involved; all close battle areas were disconnected from the close/rear battle area at Mogadishu.

The idea of nice, clear lines separating MEF's battlespace simply doesn't match the reality of the chaotic world we live in today.

Linear Operations Examples

An example of linear operations can be found during the *Battle of Iwo Jima* in 1945. The 5th, 3d, and 4th Divisions landed together. Throughout the battle, they remained interlocked with the enemy to the front and a secure rear area. As the Marine forces moved across the island, there was always a clear line to separate U.S. and Japanese forces.

Conceptual View

Deep battle operations are

- Conducted against enemy forces not in contact, so as to shape the conditions of future operations
- Deep maneuvers or deep fires to interdict, isolate, impede, or destroy enemy resources including C² or communications capabilities

The disruption or destruction of enemy capabilities during deep operations severely impact on the operations tempo and synchronization of enemy forces in contact. As defensive deep operations deny the enemy force critical support and the freedom to effectively exploit close battlespace activities, they set the stage for future tactical engagements and the transition from the defense to the offense.

Required Readings

FM/FMFRP Readings

MCWP 3-25, *Control of Aircraft and Missiles* (draft), pp. 1-5 to 1-9. Find this reading in the *FM/FMFRP Readings* (8800), pp. 251 to 256. These pages describe MAGTF's battlespace and the electromagnetic spectrum that are essential to understanding the concepts and techniques by which you plan and perform control of aircraft and missiles.

Joint Pub Readings

- Joint Pub 3-0, *Doctrine for Joint Operations*, chapter II, "Fundamentals of Joint Operations," pp. II-17 to II-20 and chapter III, "Planning Joint Operations," pp. III-33 to III-35. Find this reading in the *Joint Pub Readings* Vol. I (8800), pp. 323 to 326 and pp. 359 to 361.
- In chapter II, you will read about organization of an operational area.
- Chapter III covers control and coordination measures, boundaries, fire support coordination measures, and fire support coordination line for joint operations.
- Joint Pub 3-52, *Doctrine for Joint Airspace Control in the Combat Zone*, Appendix B, "Procedural Airspace Control Measures," pp. B-1 to B-8. Find this reading in the *Joint Pub Readings* Vol. III (8800), pp. 927 to 934. These pages cover procedural airspace control measures, including air corridor, air defense action area, air defense area, air defense identification zone, air defense operations area, airspace control area, airspace control sector, and several other components of airspace control measures.

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Required Readings, Continued

FMFM Readings

- FMFM 6-18, *Techniques and Procedures for Fire Support Coordination Measures*, Appendix H, "Fire Support Coordination Measures," pp. H-1 to H-14. Find this reading in the *FMFM Readings* (8800), pp. 447 to 460. These pages cover the following topics:
 - Permissive and restrictive fire support coordination measures
 - Control measures other than fire support coordination measures
 - FMFM 6, *Ground Combat Operations*, "Command and Control," pp. 3-7 to 3-14. Find this reading in the *FMFM Readings* (8800), pp. 361 to 368. These pages concentrate on organization of the battlefield, including area of operations, area of influence, area of interest, airspace, time, and time-distance appreciation. The topic then shifts to battlespace operations which covers deep, close, and rear operations that are not necessarily characterized by distance or location on the battlefield, but are functional in nature. Commanders must view the entire battlespace and determine what, where, and when firepower, maneuver, intelligence, and sustainment activities are to be applied against the enemy force.
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For Further Study

Supplemental Readings

The readings listed are **not** required. They are provided as recommended sources of additional information on lesson topics that may interest you. They will increase your knowledge and augment your understanding of this lesson.

- Joint Pub 3-0, *Doctrine for Joint Operations*.
 - Joint Pub 3-56.1, *Command and Control of Joint Air Operations*.
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Issues for Consideration

Battlespace

What does the term *battlespace* mean?

Control Measures

Are control measures, which define the battlespace, permissive or restrictive?

Ways to Define Battlespace

What does one use to define battlespace?

Goals of Deep Operations

What are the goals of deep operations?

Definition of Deep Operations

The "deep" in deep operations does not refer to actual depth in the battlespace. What does it refer to?
